



GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Adverse Event Decision Pathway

The purpose of this Adverse Event Decision Pathway is to assist Georgia veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and their employers with evaluating adverse events involving persons licensed by the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine. This tool may also assist in determining the best course of action to take, including but not limited to reporting the event to the Board, to mitigate risks to the licensee and the general public.

Directions

1. In partnership with the facility quality team, conduct an internal investigation on the adverse event.
2. With your data from the investigation, use the pathway starting with the question at the top and progress to other questions based on affirmative or negative answers.
3. When referencing this pathway, **IF**:
 - a. A single adverse event involves a licensee who is impaired (due to mental or physical disorders/conditions and/or alcohol or substance use/abuse); **AND**, the results of your internal investigation ends with a determination of at risk behavior or human error, refer the licensee to the Georgia Professionals Health Program (GaPHP).
 - b. Your internal investigation reveals multiple incidences of at-risk behaviors and human error for an impaired licensee, refer the licensee to the GaPHP and report the incident to the Board.

Helpful Definitions

1. Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine: The governing body that licenses veterinarians and veterinary technicians in the State of Georgia.
2. Mitigating Factors: A circumstance that lessens the degree of culpability of the veterinarian or veterinary technician.
3. Remediation: The ability to obtain treatment or therapy to deal with the at-risk behavior, human error, or diagnosed mental or physical disorder/condition or alcohol or substance use/abuse.
4. Substantial Risk: A significant possibility that an adverse outcome may occur.

ADVERSE EVENT DECISION PATHWAY

This tool is designed to assist you in determining action steps for Adverse events/errors or unprofessional conduct involving a veterinarian or veterinary technician. The pathway provides questions to provoke investigation into potential system failures, mitigating factors as well as the behavioral choices of the veterinarian/veterinary technician. When the pathway is used with data from your investigations, it promotes a consistent framework for making important patient safety decisions.

